

ART. 6. NEW INDO-AUSTRALIAN AGARISTID MOTHS

BY HARRY K. CLENCH

Arrangement of the Indo-Australian Agaristidae in the Carnegie Museum collection has brought to light several apparently new members of the family, which I now describe.

Scrobiger(?) *claggi*, sp. nov.

Female. Antenna black; frons brownish black; lower hind margin of head with yellowish hairs; palpi black, yellowish laterally except at apex of second, and all of third, segment; patagia, thorax dorsally and tegulae with erect jet black hair; fore coxae with yellow hair; middle coxae similar, more orange; hind coxae black; remainder of legs grayish black, slightly bluish iridescent in some lights. Abdomen black, slightly bluish iridescent above and laterally, less so ventrally.

Both wings above rather shining (but not iridescent) brownish black. Fore wing crossed by a diagonal pale yellowish band about 3–3.5 mm. wide, from middle of costa to, but not quite reaching, anal angle. The band reaches and colors the anterior margin of the costa itself, but at anal angle is separated from outer margin by about 1 mm., and inner margin by less than 0.5 mm. The band is slightly but regularly convex, and of roughly equal width throughout. Hind wing without markings of any kind. Fringe of both wings entirely concolorous with ground color (blackish, or brownish black).

The under surfaces are similar, with the following exceptions. The band of fore wing is rather broader and not of equal width throughout, being about 5 mm. wide on costa, 4.5 mm. in region of lower angle of cell and 5.5 mm. in cubito-anal region. On the fore wing the veins apicad of the band seem to be penciled with slate color.

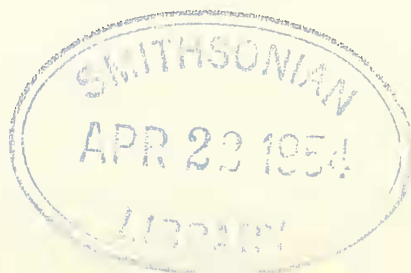
Length of fore wing, 27 mm.; expanse, 55 mm.

Holotype, female, Galog River, 6000 ft., Mt. Apo, Philippine Islands, 7. ix. 1930 (*leg.* C. F. Clagg). C. M. Acc. No. 9061. C. M. type series no. 182.

Remarks. Apparently closest to *niveifasciata* Rothschild from Borneo, from which it differs in the yellow (rather than pure white) color of the band of the fore wing, and the complete absence of any white in the fringe (abundantly white in *niveifasciata* and other allied species). This is very doubtfully a true *Scrobiger*, but, lacking a male, I hesitate to create a new genus for its reception. It is a pleasure to name this distinct species for Mr. C. F. Clagg, who collected the unique type.

Scrobiger *umbrosa*, sp. nov.

Male. Antennal shaft black, becoming distally reddish below, at and just before the subapical swelling, and continuing thus almost to apex. Frons laterally yellowish white, mesially black; lower hind margin of head, fore coxae, fore femora, fore tibiae (ventrally), middle tibiae (ventrally) all orange yellow. Palpi with second segment laterally orange yellow, black at apex; third segment black, small. Patagia anteriorly yellowish; mesothorax dorsally,



including tegulae, jet black; ventrally black except as noted above. Legs, except for orange yellow parts mentioned above, grayish black. Abdomen black, dorsally shining metallic greenish blue, iridescent.

Upper surfaces. Fore wing dark black-brown, a few orange scales scattered along the locus of the transverse orange band of the under surface (which band very feebly shows through), and a few metallic blue scales scattered in and just beyond the cell. Fringe concolorous (dark black-brown) except at apex, where it is pure white. Hind wing uniform dark shining metallic greenish blue. Outer margin feebly but definitely sinuate. Fringe long, pure white throughout.

Under surfaces. Fore wing dark brown, blackish in cell. Extreme anterior edge of costa very narrowly orange to beyond middle. Basal third of wing (from 1/4 out on costa to about 2/3 out on inner margin) strongly iridescent blue-green. Wing crossed, from just within costa at about its middle straight across nearly to 2A about 3/4 out along inner margin, by a slender orange band about 2mm. wide, tapering anally, the orange very briefly extending on veins R_1 (distad), stalk of M_{2-3} (distad), Cu_1 (distad) and Cu_2 (anad). Hind wing dark brown, feebly greenish iridescent in basal half. Fringe as for upper surfaces.

Length of fore wing, 22 mm.; expanse, 43.5 mm.

Holotype, male, nr. "Manilla" Philippine Islands, no date (gift of Mrs. Benjamin Brooks). C. M. Acc. No. 4829. C. M. type series no. 183.

Remarks. Very close to *S. semperi* Felder, of which it is just possibly the male. The differences, however, are such that it seems more likely that a different species is involved. The comparisons below are made with a single female of *semperi* (Baguio, 5000 ft., Luzon, Philippine Islands), which should be borne in mind, as some of the observed differences may be merely sexual.

S. umbrosa, then, differs from *semperi* as follows: Antennae ventrally reddish (uniformly black in *semperi*); anterior of patagia, yellowish (black in *semperi*); lateral yellowish white on frons (uniformly black in *semperi*); absence of transverse yellowish band of fore wing upper surface; yellow costal edge of fore wing (black in *semperi*); the narrower orange band below on fore wing, lacking the inclosed large quadrate black spot so prominent in *semperi*, anally obsolescent (strong, and if anything broader in the anal region in *semperi*).

Argyrolepidia megisto cissia, subsp. nov.

Resembles most closely the form *megisto* Boisduval of the typical (New Guinea) subspecies, from which it differs in the following characters: presence of a narrow white cell-end streak, at either end of which a slender white vein penciling projects basad to fuse with the post-basal transverse white band. Thus a small quadrate black cell spot seems to be formed, outlined slenderly by white. The outermost (post-median) white transverse band of the fore wing is broader than in any form of *megisto*. Hind wing uniform blackish brown above, differentiating it from either of the forms, *intermedia* Jordan

or *basiplaga* Rothschild (both of the typical subspecies). On the under surface the white post-median patch of the fore wing is somewhat rounder than in *megisto*, and on the hind wing a central, white cell-end patch is present, but of variable size. Costad of it is a patch of strong blue iridescence, extending distad along the veins briefly, and on the veins below the cell as well. Costa and entire fringe of hind wing, of both outer and inner margins, is distinctly white. (The costa of *megisto* may be white, but only basally, and its hind wing fringe is white only in the anal half or so of the wing.) The holotype has white marginal shading on the wing in the anal region, which, however, does not occur on the allotype.

The high degree of similarity of the holotype and allotype, differing only in such minor particulars as the size of the central white patch below and the anal white marginal shading below, suggests that, in contradistinction to the New Guinea subspecies, this new one from the Aru Islands may be monomorphic. Such a situation would not be without counterparts in other Agaristidae of the region.

Length of fore wing, 20 mm. (male), 24 mm. (female). Expanse, 41 mm. and 50 mm., respectively.

Holotype, male, and *allotype*, female, Aru Islands (no further data), gift of B. Preston Clark. C. M. Acc. No. 5877. C. M. type series no. 184.

Seudyra jordani, sp. nov.

Male. Antenna slender, regularly tapering distad, not apically or subapically thickened. Frons brownish, paler ventrally, and narrowly whitish along the eyes; crown brownish, laterally pale tan or whitish. Patagia brown, rimmed with pale tan; hair of tegulae long and brown. Thorax above posteriorly jet black or very dark brown-black, anterior to which it is laterally pale tan. Below, fore legs, including coxae, pale tan (grayish dorsally on tibia and tarsus), middle and hind coxae (? poorly visible in the type) and rest of legs bright orange. Abdomen orange, basal two segments dorsally each with a tiny black tuft; terminal segment black above and below, ventrally inclosing a slender transverse orange dash (composed of long hairs), terminally with long pale tan hair dorsally, laterally and ventrally. This gives the black just mentioned the appearance of a subterminal ring.

Upper surfaces. Fore wing orbicular and reniform spots maroon, rather darker than the surrounding ground which is sprinkled with tan scales, and narrowly outlined with pale whitish or tan. Beyond (distad of) reniform pure white in a short, narrow transverse band, not reaching costa and becoming broader and lost in ground color below M_3 . Distad of this the apex is broadly maroon, inclosing along the white just mentioned two very pale lines from costa to Cu_2 in a sigmoid curve (convex costally, concave anally), and inclosing as well two metallic blue spots, a larger subapical and a smaller medio-cubital one. Below cell and Cu_2 maroon, with markings from the base outwards as follows. Scattered metallic blue scales in extreme base; transverse blue band at $1/4$, followed immediately by a slender pale transverse thread-line; a large round blue spot at $1/2$, bounded basally and distally by

maroon, costally by dark maroon; just distad another slender tan thread-line, then a transverse blue band; finally at anal angle an oval red spot bordered narrowly by paler scales, touching the apex at inner margin. Hind wing pure orange with a narrow (2 mm. at M_1) anally tapering dark-brown border. Fringe of fore wing brown touched with white at anal angle; fringe of hind wing uniform very dark brown.

Under surfaces. Fore wing dark chocolate brown with white markings as follows: basal subcostal streak to about $1/3$ out along costa. Costa narrowly whitish to apex, distally a little diffused inward. A basal elongate triangular cell spot and one of hourglass shape just before end of cell. A post-median band from just within costa diagonally to Cu_2 . All these marks, except costal and subcostal, with very sharply defined borders. Hind wing as on upper surface, the dark border perhaps a little less dark. Fringe as for upper surfaces.

Length of fore wing 20.5 mm.; expanse, 44 mm.

Holotype, male, La Lun Mts., 5000 ft., Davao Prov., Mindanao, Philippine Islands, 29-31.xii.1930 (*leg.* C. F. Clagg). C. M. Acc. No. 9163. C. M. type series no. 185.

Remarks. A very distinct and handsome species, the first member of the genus to be recorded from the Philippines. It will stand closest to *S. transiens* Walker with which it agrees in the following significant respects: tapering antenna; dark red spot at anal angle of fore wing above; deep orange color of hind wing, lacking central dark spot either above or below; absence of lateral (stigmatal) dark spots on abdomen. From *transiens*, however, it may readily be distinguished by the following characters*—slightly larger size; very narrow dark border on the hind wing, less than half as wide as in *transiens*, its internal border not irregular as in that species but quite straight; paler tegulae above; black terminal abdominal segment (In *transiens* the apex of the abdomen has black only as a small spot dorsally and a similar one ventrally); the restriction of the dorsal abdominal black tufts to the two basal segments (In *transiens* there is a tuft on each segment to apex), and their reduction in size; the large metallic blue spot on the middle of the inner margin of the fore wing is rather larger than in *transiens*, and the maroon regions of this wing somewhat paler. The fore wing is also more elongate than that of *transiens*.

Named in honor of Dr. Karl Jordan, as a slight tribute from one who has long admired his genius. No matter on what group, or on what problem, he may focus his attention — and it has been focused on many — he brings order out of chaos, and in a few words can say more than the rest of us can in paragraphs. His work on Agaristidae, though only one small facet of his broad interests, is exemplary.

*No examples of the typical (Javanese) subspecies being available to me, I have based all the comparisons here on material from northern India (subsp. *dissimilis* Swinhoe).